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*Please forward this announcement to individuals, organizations and institutions which may wish to participate.  
We apologize for cross-postings*

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## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

### Training for Urban Planning Practitioners: Managing Conflicts and Urban Development in Multiethnic Communities

Budapest, Hungary, June 20–26, 2010

Trainers: Katalin Pallai and Ana Vasilache

Deadline for application: April 19, 2010

Selection notification: April 26, 2010

Apply on-line by visiting <http://lgi.osi.hu> (see "Events")

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The Managing Multiethnic Communities Program (MMCP) of the Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (LGI) of the Open Society Institute (OSI) – Budapest, Hungary announces a call for applications for a five-day Training on Managing Conflicts and Urban Development in Multiethnic Communities.

This training will present recent thinking and practice in addressing social/economic inequalities and conflicts in multiethnic communities through inclusive institutions, participatory planning processes, and alternative dispute resolution techniques. It will build practitioners' competence and skills for managing effectively planning processes and conflicts triggered by local policy decisions in multiethnic communities. The workshop is based on experiential learning methods and makes use of case studies. Group work, facilitated discussions, and short, conceptual presentations are among the training tools.

The working language is English.

This training targets *urban planning practitioners* – architects, economists, lawyers, sociologists, engineers, and others – working for/with:

- Local or national governments
- International organizations
- Companies or NGOs involved in urban development planning

This training is part of an on-going series of Diversity Trainings developed and offered by MMCP. For more information, visit: <http://lgi.osi.hu/documents.php?id=36>.

## **Background**

We are constantly reminded that ethno-cultural diversity remains a challenge for states and communities across the globe. Innumerable historical and contemporary examples show the risks and grave repercussions that accompany attempts to eliminate or deny the existence of ethno-cultural difference. Such attempts can and do provoke bitter resistance, harden divisions in society, and have long-lasting, destructive effects.

It is also apparent that diversity is not isolated to a few "multiethnic" states. With globalization, communities everywhere are experiencing new and complex challenges for social cohesion: ethno-cultural identity intersects with other forms of difference, such as in income, educational attainment, and lifestyle. In short, diversity is more the rule than the exception. This is certainly true across post-socialist ("transitioning") countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

Consensus now holds that the management of diverse interests and needs is a key element of good governance. Moreover, pro-actively addressing the needs and demands of diverse groups can help resolve seemingly irreconcilable situations. Advancing both institutional and personal competence in diversity management is necessary for achieving social cohesion, strengthening democratic institutions, and achieving development goals. Simply put, mainstreaming values of fair, transparent, and inclusive government policies and institutions will benefit all social groups and society as a whole.

In order to make informed decisions and choices regarding diversity management strategies, policymakers, administrators, and civil servants must acquire the skills and knowledge to build a society that is equitable and inclusive of all people. They must be aware of and sensitive to diversity, while considering the relationship between their own identities and actions, contexts, and local communities. They need to understand processes of discrimination, exclusion, and stereotyping, as well as their consequences, in order to tackle them effectively.

Diversity Trainings of MMCP address the need for good, democratic governance in diverse communities by offering regular courses that are tailored for target groups. MMCP trainings focus on Central and South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

## Components

### Training Objectives

By the end of the course participants will:

- *Improve their understanding of:*
  - (a) how diversity, ethnicity, stereotypes and discrimination impact local processes; and
  - (b) how can conflict management and participatory decision making and planning processes be applied for the management of urban development in multiethnic communities (MC);
- *Acquire competence and skills to:*
  - (a) *analyze conflict situations* in multiethnic communities that may appear in the urban development planning and implementation processes;
  - (b) *identify appropriate strategies* in order to manage conflict situations, such as principled negotiation, multiparty mediation and facilitation of participatory decision making and planning processes; and
  - (c) *identify the stakeholders* that can be involved in such processes.

### Training Materials

Participants will receive, in electronic form:

- Two manuals of MMCP Diversity Training package, based on the program's extensive experience in diversity training in Central and South Eastern Europe and Central Asia:
  - Introduction to Diversity Management*, by Petra Kovacs and Zsuzsa Katona; and
  - Ethnic Diversity and Conflict Management*, by Ana Vasilache.These manuals present basic concepts and provide practical tools for self-study and classroom activities.
- Articles, book chapters and handbooks covering the different topics will also be made available

During the course participants will also receive handouts in hard copies that support the learning process.

### Post-training coaching/advising

On a need driven basis trainers will provide post-training advice and coaching for alumni to support their efforts of applying the acquired knowledge and skills in their jobs and work.

## Selection and Costs

Participants will be selected based on their on-line applications, according to the following criteria:

- Professional experience in the urban planning field;
- Expression of interest and demonstration of how the acquired knowledge and skills will be applied;
- Opportunity to apply the acquired knowledge and skills (i.e. place of work); and
- Proficiency in English language.

This training targets applicants from Central and South Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

LGI actively encourages the application of candidates associated with the national secretariats of the Decade of Roma Inclusion and other members of the Roma policy community.

LGI has secured full funding to support the participation of 20 trainees selected on a competitive basis. LGI will cover their tuition and materials, accommodation, meals, and transportation (to and from Budapest) costs.

In addition, four (4) self-funded participants will be selected. These participants (or their organizations) are expected to cover their travel expenses, accommodation. Tuition fees will be covered by LGI.

## Important!

1. All participants should arrive in Budapest on June 20, 2010 and depart on June 26, 2010. The program starts with an opening dinner on June 20 evening. The first training session starts on June 21 and the last training session finishes on June 25, according to the agenda. The closing dinner will take place in the evening of June 25, 2010.
2. Accepted candidates should confirm their participation within 7 days to secure their funding from LGI: Ms Eva Badar, LGI Program Coordinator  
E-mail: [badare@osi.hu](mailto:badare@osi.hu)  
Tel: ++361 327 3100, Fax: ++361 327 3105
3. LGI is not able to re-fund any costs of those participants who did not obtain their visa in time or who do not show up at the training for other unforeseen reasons.
4. All selected participants who need a Hungarian visa are expected to start to arrange their visa *immediately after receiving notification*. Visa process may take up to 6 weeks from certain countries. Any delay in submitting a visa request may prevent a participant from receiving his/her visa in time.
5. LGI-funded participants who are not attending all training sessions will not be eligible for travel costs reimbursement nor for the end-of-course certificate of MMCP
6. Only complete applications will be considered in the selection process
7. Late submissions will not be considered in the selection process.
8. *Cancellation policy*: Any last minute voluntary cancellation within three weeks from the start date will be sanctioned by rejection of any further applications by said applicant. Vis major should be documented.
9. The applicant confirms that all information in the application is true.

## About the Trainers

### Katalin Pallai

Katalin Pallai is an independent urban policy expert with extensive experience in the field. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science, an M.A. in Public Policy, and an M.Sc. in Architecture and Urban Planning. Professionally, she focuses on governance and strategic planning, and particularly on local processes of policy-making and strategy drafting. Her key expertise is in coordinating the efforts of stakeholders and experts from different fields of policy and development planning in their process towards agreement and integrated strategies.

Over the past 20 years, Katalin has assisted local and national governments and international organizations elaborate policy concepts and strategies. Alongside consulting, she works as community mediator managing conflict resolution processes among local stakeholders and local governments. During the last 15 years, she has designed and directed many executive training and university courses on urban strategy and management and coached teams of experts and NGOs in planning and leading participatory processes. She is regularly invited to lecture on topics related to local government policies, and has published books and numerous articles on urban strategies and management and local government reforms. For more see [www.pallai.hu](http://www.pallai.hu).

### Ana Vasilache

Ana Vasilache, an architect and urban planner by education, is the winner of the prestigious UN HABITAT Award in 2000, the Habitat Scroll of Honor, for her dedication to improving urban governance in Romania and CEE countries. She is the Founding Director Partners Foundation for Local Development FPD, an NGO based in Bucharest, Romania, which aims to enhance democratic processes of governance and promote a new change and conflict management culture through capacity-building programs. Since 1998, with LGI support and under her leadership, FPD achieved its mission by conducting the Regional Program "Working Together," providing high quality Training of Trainers programs, user-friendly training manuals, opportunities for experience exchange and support for national programs implementation to a large network of trainers and training organizations from 35 countries and four continents. Visit [www.fpd.ro](http://www.fpd.ro)

Ana has over 15 years of extensive experience as trainer and consultant, working in a diversity of countries and cultures in CEE/SEE, West and East Africa, South and Central Asia, designing and conducting Training of Trainers/Facilitators, Training Programs and Participatory Planning Processes, elaborating studies and training manuals. Ana has contributed to the development of MMCP as co-trainer of its TOTs and Training Programs and as author of its training manual, *Ethnic Diversity and Conflict Management*. In addition to her own trainings, she has attended training programs organized by UN-HABITAT, LGI, Harvard School of Design, Riverside University of California, Pratt University, Academy for Education and Development, Partners for Democratic Change, University of Toulouse.

### About LGI and MMCP

The Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative (LGI) was launched in January 1997 by the Board of the Open Society Institute Budapest. The primary mission of LGI is to foster such cross-border cooperation and to support and disseminate throughout the region potentially important policy studies which have significant impact on policy reform. For more information: <http://lgi.osi.hu>

LGI's Managing Multiethnic Communities Program (MMCP) is an in-house initiative that promotes policy good governance in multiethnic communities through research based advocacy, training, and awareness-raising. In this endeavor, MMCP develops training materials, encourages the development of "innovative practices" in the field of diversity management, and strives to develop information and expert networks. MMCP publishes studies, manuals and books on related issues throughout the region. Visit: <http://lgi.osi.hu/documents.php?id=28>